

VZCZCXRO4198
PP RUEHAG RUEHROV
DE RUEHLE #0639 3471555
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
P 131555Z DEC 06
FM AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5695
INFO RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES
RUEHDM/AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS 0072
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 0161

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUXEMBOURG 000639

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/12/2016
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [SY](#) [LU](#) [EUN](#)
SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER JUNCKER DISCUSSES THE IRAQ STUDY
GROUP REPORT, TOUTS SYRIA'S IMPORTANCE IN STABILIZING IRAQ

Classified By: DCM Steven Kraft for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

¶1. (C/NF) During a private meeting with Ambassador Wagner on December 11, Prime Minister Juncker expressed hope that the Iraq Study Group (ISG) report would prove productive in helping the USG to resolve problems in Iraq. He said he was surprised that the study (and especially its findings) had been exposed to public view, given that some of the analysis could "benefit the enemy."

¶2. (C/NF) Several times during the meeting, Juncker stressed that Syria was key to any long-term solution in Iraq, and encouraged the USG to aggressively engage Damascus in this regard. He noted that French President Chirac was dismissive of any Syrian role and claimed that Chirac had gone out of his way to downplay the possible benefits of engaging Syria. Juncker himself was skeptical of the possible advantages of engaging Iran, saying simply that in dealing with President Ahmadinejad, the West was "dealing with a madman."

WAGNER